



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

19 DEC 2003

Mr. Jim Hull, Director
Water Pollution Control Program
Water Protection and Soil Conservation Division
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Mr. Hull:

Re: Approval of Kelley Branch and Rocky Fork TMDLs

This letter responds to the submission from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) dated December 1, 2003, of the Kelley Branch and Rocky Fork Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) document which contains TMDLs for habitat loss and sediment. Kelley Branch and Rocky Fork were identified on the 1998 Missouri §303(d) list as impaired as a result of habitat loss and sediment, respectively. Allocations are described through the use of surrogate targets for sediment in the TMDL document to address these impairments.



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of these two TMDLs with supporting documentation and information. By this letter, EPA approves the submitted TMDLs for Kelley Branch and Rocky Fork. Enclosed with this letter is a Region 7 TMDL Review Form which summarizes the rationale for EPA's approval of the TMDLs. The EPA believes the separate elements of the TMDLs described in the enclosed form adequately address the pollutants of concern, taking into consideration seasonal variation and a margin of safety.

EPA is currently in consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding these TMDLs. While EPA is approving these TMDLs at the present time, EPA may decide that changes to the TMDLs are warranted based upon the results of the consultation when it is completed.

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EPA appreciates the thoughtful effort that MDNR has put into these TMDLs. EPA will continue to cooperate with and assist, as appropriate, in future efforts by MDNR to develop the remaining TMDLs.

Sincerely,


for  Leo J. Alderman
Director
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division

Enclosure

cc: Sharon Clifford, TMDL Coordinator, MO Dept of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO